The Lifelong Learning Programme

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk
In a year designated as the European Year for Creativity and Innovation, the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) played a crucial role in helping individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating, creative and innovative opportunities for learning across Europe.

The programmes offered thousands of participants, from nursery school through formal education and into adulthood, the chance to develop personally and professionally, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Pupils, students, trainees, young people, adults, professionals, professors and teachers were given a unique opportunity to obtain education, training, development and work experience in 30 countries throughout Europe, and to collaborate with their peers in those countries on joint projects. They acquired new skills, knowledge in new subjects or in teaching methods, cultural awareness, language skills, open mindedness and a deeper insight into the countries they visited and the people they met.

The British Council and ECOTEC, who manage the five Lifelong Learning sub-programmes in the UK, worked together to ensure that as many people as possible took advantage of these excellent opportunities. Consultation with key stakeholders revealed very positive feedback on the successful implementation of the programmes. Our crucial work in widening participation and promotion ensured that the programmes continued to reach new audiences and helped to develop active citizenship, cultural awareness and social cohesion.

We hope this report will give you a good overview of the scale and scope of the programmes in 2009, as well as an overview of some of the ways in which we are helping participants to contribute more fully to our increasingly global society.

Kursat Levent Egriboz
Director
Lifelong Learning Programme (Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal)

Simon Williams
Director
Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus and Comenius)
2009: working together

The current Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) runs from 2007–2013. This means that we have reached an important halfway milestone.

We are proud of our achievements during the first phase (2007–2010), having established the LLP as a valuable source of European funding among UK organisations and individuals.

As we move into the second phase (2010–2013) the National Agencies have agreed that our primary focus should shift from ‘awareness’ to ‘outcomes’ – ensuring that we continue to work together to update and improve the programmes and to champion the achievements of the LLP as a whole.

In 2009, we began to prepare for this transition by turning our attention towards:

- asking LLP beneficiaries about how we can improve;
- securing more funding applications from areas of the UK where participation is comparatively low; and
- emphasising the holistic nature of the LLP through more joint events and activities between ECOTEC and the British Council.

This report highlights some of the ways in which we worked towards these objectives during 2009.

An event to remember ...

2009 was the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, and ECOTEC and the British Council worked together to showcase 30 of the most creative and innovative projects from across the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action.

300 delegates from across the education and training sector attended our A Vision of the Future exhibition in Birmingham, making it the largest event ever organised by the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action in the UK.

As a lasting legacy of the event, ECOTEC and the British Council produced a follow-up case study booklet and video, featuring a number of the exhibiting organisations. You can download both at www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk/creativity-and-innovation.asp
As part of our preparations for the second phase of the LLP (2010–2013) we conducted a major survey of organisations who have taken part in the LLP over the years.

We would like to thank all of the organisations who kindly gave their time to share their experiences, views and suggestions. Your feedback will form the foundation of our strategy as we move into the next stage of the programme.

ECOTEC and the British Council are now working with the European Commission to discuss the issues you raised. The outcomes of the evaluation will be published during the course of 2010. Keep an eye on the website for more information: www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk

Listening to you ...

Towards a fairer Lifelong Learning Programme ...

In 2009 we worked to make the LLP fairer, by reducing geographical under-representation in the distribution of funding. This is important since, in 2008, there was some substantial variation in the levels of involvement between different parts of the UK. ECOTEC worked to address this by applying application weighting to proposals received from organisations in key target regions. This measure was applied to certain activities within the Grundtvig and Transversal programmes. To further encourage participation, both ECOTEC and the British Council’s annual events schedules were also developed with an emphasis on targeting the regions where participation had been comparatively low.

As well as working to reduce geographical under-representation, much work went on in 2009 to attract new organisations to the LLP. For example, the British Council promoted Erasmus to colleges of further and higher education. These institutions don’t have a tradition of involvement in Erasmus so it was very pleasing to note that of the 14 Erasmus University Charters awarded in 2009, 13 were given to the FE/HE sector. In the schools sector, application weighting was used to encourage participation from institutions new to Comenius.

New in 2009!

2009 was an exciting year for lifelong learning with the arrival of the following new LLP opportunities:

- Comenius Regio partnerships allow European local governments to work together on two-year partnerships to improve educational provision for young people.
- Grundtvig senior volunteering projects support European volunteer exchanges between people over the age of 50.
- Grundtvig learner workshops support adult education organisations to run a workshop for adult learners from across Europe on a variety of topics.
- Grundtvig assistantships are open to anyone training, re-entering or already in a career in adult education. Assistantships offer the opportunity for individuals to gain a better understanding of the European dimension in adult education.
Our year in words:

ECOTEC and the British Council worked together on a brochure to promote the LLP to learners and professionals in the further education sector. The guide, Go Further in Europe, details all the possible activities available to students, trainees, trainers, teachers and managers.

The British Council contributed to two important documents: the NUS report into studying abroad, Students Studying Abroad and the European Higher Education Area and the HEFCE report, Attainment in Higher Education – Erasmus and Placement Students.

ECOTEC ran a series of advisory groups in the English regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Advisory groups involve panels of policy makers and stakeholders in supporting the national agencies to tailor activities to regional and national needs while also cascading key information about the LLP through their networks.

The British Council and the DCSF commissioned market research on perceptions and attitudes towards the international dimension among teachers and school leaders, including the benefits of and barriers to taking part in international projects.

ECOTEC worked with the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education to produce a handy new booklet to help Lifelong Learning Programme projects attract the interest of politicians and the media.

ECOTEC continued to bring together policy makers, stakeholders and LLP projects through its bi-annual Thematic Networking Group (TNG) meetings. By providing a forum for discussion and debate between government officials and practitioners, the TNGs support the policy development process.

The Welsh Assembly Government’s ‘World Class in Wales’ policy document endorsed the LLP’s international opportunities, as an essential means of supporting learners to compete in the global economy. The National Agencies are collaborating closely with the Welsh Government to support their long term objectives for skills and lifelong learning.

Our year in numbers:

Over €35 million in funding for Erasmus grants and over €15 million for Comenius grants.

Almost €26 million in funding grants for Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal programmes.

1,000 schools, 12,000 teachers and 180,000 pupils took part in the Comenius programme in the UK.

This year the European Union announced that since its introduction in 1987, two million students from across Europe have now taken part in the Erasmus programme.

10,843 students, 1,735 staff and 211 higher education institutions took part in the Erasmus programme.

5,000 vocational education learners, apprentices, teachers and trainers undertook a work placement or a period of study in another European country through the Leonardo programme.

160 people attended individual mobility placements with funding from Grundtvig. The programme also supported around 125 UK adult education organisations to take part in small-scale co-operation projects with other European countries.

250 senior education and training professionals attended week-long study visits, funded under the Transversal programme. The visits were an opportunity to share innovative practice in the design and delivery of education and training with colleagues from across Europe.

300 people from across the UK and other EU countries attended our A Vision of the Future exhibition in Birmingham – celebrating creativity and innovation in the LLP and Youth in Action.

Over 600 delegates booked on to nine UK information days to find out how to apply for funding under the Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal programmes.

Over 650,000 people visited the LLP’s five websites.

Over 90,000 people received a newsletter that highlighted some of the activities taking place in the Lifelong Learning Programmes. These include Learning World (Comenius and Erasmus), edUKation (Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal) and the Comenius eNews.
Opportunity Navigator – the Lifelong Learning Programme

Adult education
Adult education teachers and learners should apply to the Grundtvig programme.
Find out more:
www.grundtvig.org.uk
0845 199 1919
grundtvig@ecotec.com

Vocational education and training
Employers and educational institutions can apply for all kinds of European opportunities to improve vocational education and training through Leonardo.
Find out more:
www.leonardo.org.uk
0845 199 2929
leonardo@ecotec.com

Schools
Schools can apply to participate in the Comenius and eTwinning programmes.
Find out more:
www.britishcouncil.org/comenius
0161 957 7755
comenius@britishcouncil.org

Higher education
Universities and other higher education providers can take part in the Erasmus programme.
Find out more:
www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus
029 20 92 4311
erasmus@britishcouncil.org

Education and training professionals
If you’re involved in syllabus design or planning, the provision of education or training, you could go on a week-long study visit through the Transversal programme.
Find out more:
www.transversal.org.uk
0845 199 3939
studyvisits@ecotec.com

Europass
Europass is free and can help to remove barriers to working, studying or training in Europe by enabling you to present your competences, skills and qualifications in a clear way.
Find out more:
www.uknec.org.uk
0871 330 8341
info@uknec.org.uk

© Mat Wright
BACK PAGE: ADD CUT OUT YOUTH IN ACTION AND EUROPASS FROM THE OPPORTUNITY NAVIGATOR AND TURN IT INTO A ONE PAGE CHART. BRANDING SHOULD BE CHANGED TO REFLECT JUDE’S ARTWORK.

IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE YOU CAN REMOVE THE ‘OPPORTUNITY NAVIGATOR’ HEADING AND SUB HEADING AND MAKE MORE OF THE LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME BUBBLE SO THAT THIS BECOMES THE HEADING.

© British Council 2010 Design Department/Z018
The United Kingdom’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.
A registered charity: 209131 (England and Wales) SC037733 (Scotland).

www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk